



WYSA Age Exemption Policy

It is recognized that age divisions are a necessary component of youth soccer. They ensure that children are grouped based on their physical, emotional, and social development, affording each child the opportunity to thrive in the safest, least restrictive environment possible. However, there are also times when exceptions to a strict age deadline would advance these objectives.

Therefore, this policy is intended to permit students in the same school grade, born shortly before the age cut off, to play soccer with their classmates on recreational teams that are registered through ***WYSA in districts that have formally adopted this policy.***

The following criteria must be met for Age Exemption Eligibility:

1. The request for exemption must be initiated by a player's parent(s) or guardian in writing.
2. The player must be participating on a recreational team playing in a recreational division of play.
3. The player must be in the same school grade as his or her teammates.
4. The player must not be more than six months older than the normal August 1st deadline.
5. All of the following three forms of documentation must be kept on file with the Club which may be reviewed at any time by their WYSA District or WYSA for compliance:
 - i. The player's parent(s) or guardian's request for the age exemption in writing.
 - ii. Written statement from the respective team's coach indicating that the player wasn't an exceptional player and was appropriate for the team's league placement.
 - iii. Written approval by a club official.

The following limitations will apply to teams with over-age players:

1. A maximum of TWO overage players are allowed per team.
2. Should the team wish to participate in a WYSA/US Youth Soccer sanctioned tournament, it would have to participate at the age appropriate level.
3. Age exemptions are not permitted for any competitive (select, classic, premier, etc.) team.

Procedure:

1. Parent or guardian send written request to club for the Age Exemption Policy to be applied to their player.
2. The coach of the team on which the player will be registered submits written statement of appropriateness of age exemption.
3. A club official confirms age exemption and notifies parents of approval or denial in writing.
4. If the age exemption is approved, the club/district registrar registers the team in League One as an age appropriate team based on the current birth-year guidelines.
5. Team registration form is submitted for participation in recreational league play identifying the age group in which the team should be placed.

WYSA District adopting this policy and WYSA reserves the right to investigate age exemption placements and/or revoke any age exemption in cases where this policy has been violated, including, but not limited to situations such as:

- the three documents required for eligibility of a player are not available for review or do not exist,
- a team has not adhered to the limitations set above, or
- a team with age exemption players is deemed to be using the policy to gain an unfair advantage over opponents in matches.

This policy was reaffirmed by the WYSA Board of Directors on June 13, 2009 and has been codified for State-wide use.